

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 23, line 23, through page 24, line 9, with the following rewritten paragraph:

First, when a page of the original paper 4 is fed by the ADF 3, as shown in FIG. 5, a gate signal SLEAD (signal indicating a reading range for the white reference plate 9) is output from a microcomputer 20, and, then, a light source turning on signal LED_ON for ~~tuning~~ turning on the LED array 11 is made active. In this case, theme black correction reference data is obtained during an active interval of a gate signal BKGT for L1 scan lines (the interval of L1), from the time the gate signal SLEAD is made active until the time the light source tuning on signal LED_ON is made active (so that the LED 11 is turned on).

Please replace the paragraph at page 26, lines 1-13, with the following rewritten paragraph:

At the beginning of an interval during which the signal SLEAD indicating a reading operation interval for reading the white reference plate 9 is asserted, the reference voltage V_{ref0} for the white reference plate 9 is selected as the reference voltage V_{ref} of the A-D converters 14 (the gate signal WTGT is asserted). ~~Then, Then,~~ reading of the white reference plate 9 is started while the LED is turned off. During the interval L1, the black correction reference data is produced, as mentioned above. Then, after that, at a time the signal BKGT is negated after L1, production of the black correction reference data is finished, and the LED array 11 is turned on.

Please cancel the original Abstract on page 49, lines 1-20, in its entirety and insert therefor the following substitute Abstract on a separate sheet as follows: